

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2006 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20060821). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1, 4-12 and 1-20 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 2-3 and 13-14 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 1 and 4-12 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including page 10, line 26 to page 21, line 9, and Figures 1-15. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Objections or Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming a program without being implemented in any tangible medium. Further, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As outlined above, the claims are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention in accordance with the Examiner's requirements. With respect to the terms the Examiner noted as being vague or indefinite, Applicants will contend that such terms are clearly defined in the specification, for example, on page 11, line 9 to page 16, line 22. As explained therein, in at least a first embodiment, the terms "important" and "unimportant" are used in the context of portions in the input document or sentences in the input document that are characterized based on the presence or frequency of certain keywords, and on whether such portions or sentences are then extracted or suppressed.

Consequently, the terms objected to by the Examiner are in fact neither vague nor indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, since the terms are fully supported and explained in the specification. As such, Applicants will submit that the formal objection and rejection have been addressed, and the claims are now in conformance with all formal requirements.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner noted that claims 3-11 and 14-20 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the following informality rejection and to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As outlined above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 2-3, while claim 12 had been amended to incorporate the features of claims 13-14. As such, Applicants will contend that all the remaining claims are now in an allowable form.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ayyadurai (US Patent No. 6,718,368). As noted above, the claims are being amended in accordance with the Examiner's holding of allowable subject matter. As such, this prior art rejection is hereby rendered moot.

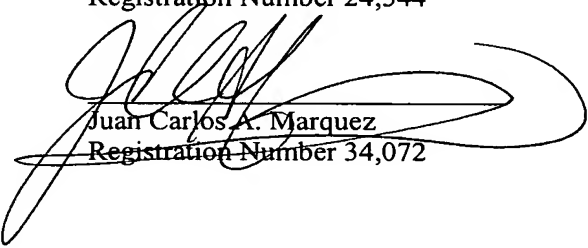
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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